



Women of the ELCA

Northwest Synod of WI-S.W.O. 5-H

2010 Women of the ELCA Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Report

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ is the Mission Statement for Women of the ELCA. Studying God's Word, participating in local, Conference, Synod and Churchwide events, contributing our time, talents and resources to local and global happenings were and are bold acts.

Many opportunities were provided for studying God's Word. "Mary: A Woman for All Seasons" was the 2009 summer *Lutheran Woman Today* Bible Study. "To God's Beloved, Paul's Letter to the Romans" was our September thru May LWT study. Join us this summer for a study on prayer. The importance of being persistent in prayer, the relationship between prayer and waiting, and understanding the power of prayer to change us and perhaps our circumstances will be the emphasis. Check the LWT Web site (www.lutheranwomantoday.org) for free download materials. *Pentecost, Prayer and Power, Caring for the Earth as God's People, Being Good Stewards of Water, Hospitality: More than Warm and Friendly, A Bold Life of Faith (Katie Luther), Faithful Stewardship: Supporting our Mission and Ministry, Raising Up Healthy Woman and Girls, God Colors Outside the Lines: A Workshop on Diversity and God's Church* are a few studies provided to us from W/ELCA and may be accessed for free at www.womenoftheelca.org

Many participated in local, Conference, Synod and Churchwide events. Bold Woman Sunday, Thank Offering Services, World Day of Prayer, fund raising activities, book clubs, grief groups, Bible Study, intergenerational activities were just a few events happening locally. Six of the 7 Conferences held a Spring Rally or Morning of Renewal. Five Conferences held summer one day or multiple day retreats. Diane Kaufmann and Marcia Lindseth participated in Churchwide sponsored anti-racism training-*Today's Dream, Tomorrow's Reality*. Roberta Bitler, Triennial Promoter, attended training in Spokane, WA, the site of the 2011 Convention/Gathering. Linda Cords attended Churchwide Training for Synod Treasurers and Avalene Swanson attended the annual Conference of Presidents, both in Chicago. On the Synod level, nine women participated in a Face to Face Tour to Sinodo Centro-Canpanha Sul, our Companion Synod in southern Brazil. Dr Sarah Henrich, author of the 2009-2010 LWT "To God's Beloved," presented an introduction to the Bible Study. "New Resources" was presented at "Walking Together-A Cong. Resource Event." The theme, "I am the vine, you are the branches" was a great foundation for welcoming 13 sisters from our Companion Synod, Malawi, Africa to our biennial convention.

The women have contributed MOUNDS of "kits" and quilts locally and globally. Sixteen scholarships (12 first time attendees) were given for Synod Convention. Three women seminarians and 5 Lay School attendees received scholarships. Thank Offerings were given. Offerings were donated to the Malawi Earthquake Appeal, Malawi Literacy Project, Synod Resource Center, Fund for Leaders and the ongoing support for Conference. Synod and Churchwide Women of the ELCA. The gifts are so needed. Thank you.

Women consistently say how much they value the friendship, fellowship, and support they experience by being part of a community of women of faith. Relationships are developed and nurtured through Bible study, prayer, mentoring relationships, and opportunities to serve. Join us. Thanks be to God!

Avalene Swanson, SWO President

